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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Stephen PALM

Group Art Unit : 2631

Appl. No. : 09/473,683 ✓

Examiner : P. KUMAR

Filed : December 29, 1999

Confirmation No.: 1308

For : ACTIVATION OF MULTIPLE xDSL MODEMS WITH HALF DUPLEX  
AND FULL DUPLEX PROCEDURES

**REPLY TO COMMENTS IN INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:


Responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed in the above-captioned application, and the comments made by the Examiner in the Interview Summary attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of the claims in the present application. While Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicant further wishes to clarify that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of

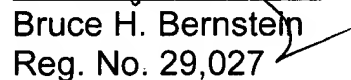
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the features recited therein. Further, Applicant submits that the Examiner's comments with regard to claim 17 is rendered moot in view of the amendments made to the claim, which resulted in its allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments about the above, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen PALM

  
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February 24, 2005  
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